

Clean Versions of Replacement Claims

Please amend claims 1-9, 12-15, 19, 20, 22-27, 30, and 35 to conform to the following clean versions.

1. A software system, comprising:
a set of available resources;
name space which corresponds to a task executing in the software system, the name space for holding a flexible binding that binds a local name used by the task to one or more of the available resources using a description of a desired resource;
resource mediator that obtains a message from the task which contains the local name and in response the resource mediator identifies a resource handler task for handling the message by resolving the local name using the flexible binding.
2. The software system of claim 1, wherein the flexible binding includes a reference to a resource descriptor in a repository of the software system for one or more of the available resources.
3. The software system of claim 2, wherein the flexible binding includes a binding-type indicator that informs the resource mediator of whether to use the references or the description of the desired resource when resolving the local name.
4. The software system of claim 2, wherein the message includes a binding-type indicator that informs the resource mediator of whether to use the references or the description of the desired resource or a combination thereof when resolving the local name.

5. The software system of claim 4, wherein the binding-type indicator causes the resource mediator to use a tight binding when resolving the local name such that the resource mediator uses the references to resolve the local name.

6. The software system of claim 5, wherein the binding-type indicator causes the resource mediator to use the tight binding to resolve the local name if any of the references correspond to one of available resources and to use a flexible binding otherwise such that the flexible binding is based on the description of the desired resource.

7. The software system of claim 4, wherein the binding-type indicator causes the resource mediator to use a flexible binding when resolving the local name by searching the repository for a resource descriptor having a set of attributes that match the description of the desired resource.

8. The software system of claim 4, wherein the binding-type indicator causes the resource mediator to use a flexible binding to update the references when resolving the local name by searching the repository for a resource descriptor having a set of attributes that match the description of the desired resource.

9. The software system of claim 4, wherein the binding-type indicator causes the resource mediator to remove any of the references that correspond to resources that are not currently available when resolving a local name.

12. The software system of claim 1, wherein the message includes a primary resource field that holds the local

name for the desired resource and a set of additional resource fields each of which holds a local name that the task uses to refer to an additional resource for which a flexible binding is to be delivered to the resource handler task.

13. The software system of claim 12, wherein the primary resource field and each additional resource field includes a field for holding a local name which the task uses to refer to a name space to be used to resolve the corresponding local names.

14. The software system of claim 12, wherein the resource handler uses a default name space associated with the task to resolve the local names in the primary resource and additional resource fields.

15. The software system of claim 12, wherein the primary resource field includes a binding-type indicator that informs the resource mediator of how to resolve the local name in the primary resource field.

19. The software system of claim 16, wherein the name space is arranged as a structured name space with an ordered list of frames.

20. The software system of claim 1, wherein the message specifies a repository view that holds a subset of resource descriptors contained in a repository of the software system and the flexible binding includes a reference to a resource descriptor in the repository view for each of the one or more available resources.

22. A method for providing flexible bindings in a software system, comprising the steps of:

creating a name space which corresponds to a task
executing in the software system;

writing a flexible binding into the name space that
binds a local name used by the task to one or more of a
set of available resources of the computer system using a
description of a desired resource;

obtaining a message from the task which contains the
local name and in response identifying a resource handler
task for handling the message by resolving the local name
using the flexible binding.

23. The method of claim 22, wherein the step of
resolving the local name comprises the step of resolving
the local name using a reference to a resource descriptor
in a repository of the software system for each of the
one or more available resources which is included in the
flexible binding in response to a binding-type indicator
in the message that specifies a tight binding.

24. The method of claim 22, wherein the step of
resolving the local name comprises the steps of:

resolving the local name using a reference to a
resource descriptor in a repository of the software
system for each of the one or more available resources if
any of the references are included in the flexible
binding;

resolving the local name using the description of
the desired resource if none of the references are
included in the flexible binding.

25. The method of claim 22, wherein the step of
resolving the local name comprises the step of searching
a repository in the software system for a resource
descriptor having a set of attributes that match the
description of the desired resource in response to a

binding-type indicator in the message that specifies a flexible binding.

26. The method of claim 22, wherein the step of resolving the local name comprises the steps of:

searching a repository in the software system for a resource descriptor having a set of attributes that match the description of the desired resource;

updating a list in the flexible binding of references to resource descriptors in the repository that match the description of the desired resource.

27. The method of claim 22, wherein the step of resolving the local name comprises the step of removing from a list in the flexible binding any references to resource descriptors in a repository of the software system that correspond to resources that are not currently available.

30. The method of claim 22, wherein the message specifies a name space that holds the flexible binding.

35. The method of claim 22, wherein the step of resolving the local name comprises the step of resolving the local name using a reference to a resource descriptor in a repository of the software system for each of the one or more available resources in the flexible binding in response to a binding-type indicator in the message that specifies a tight binding and using a specified arbitration policy to select one of the references.